

Reading School District
Board of Directors

Special Board Meeting
January 4, 2012

These are the Minutes of the Reading School District Board of Directors Special Board Meeting held on January 4, 2012, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 800 Washington Street, Reading, PA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ms. Stroman, President.

Board Present:

Mrs. Acosta	Mr. Cooper
Mr. Denbowski	Mr. Heebner
Mrs. McCree	Mr. Storch
Ms. Stroman	Mrs. Torres-Figueroa
Mr. Washington	

Finance and Legal

The Finance and Legal Committee presented Resolution FIN-3 for consideration. The motion was made by Mr. Storch, and this was seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa.

FIN-3 Accelerated Budget Opt Out Resolution Certifying Tax Rate Within Inflation Index (and No Need to Comply with Act 1 Accelerated Budget Procedures) For the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year

Background. Act 1 § 311(a), 53 P.S. § 6926.311(a), requires a new budget adoption timeline and procedure unless a school district, no later than 110 days before the primary election, adopts a resolution containing the certifications incorporated in this resolution. The deadline this year is January 5, 2012. After adoption of a resolution containing such certifications, § 311(d) authorizes a school district to comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules as set forth in School Code § 687, 24 P.S. § 6-687. The School Board has reviewed the school district preliminary budget or has other information sufficient to make a determination that the budget for the next fiscal year can be funded based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing taxes by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index. In lieu of the new budget adoption timeline and procedure, the School Board wishes to make the required certifications and comply with pre-Act 1 budget adoption rules.

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Reading School District, makes the following unconditional certifications:

1. The school district's various tax levies and other revenue sources will be sufficient to balance the school district final budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year based on maintaining current tax rates or increasing tax rates by an amount less than or equal to the Act 1 index applicable to the school district as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This conclusion is based on the school district preliminary budget or other information available to the School Board.
2. The applicable index for the **2012-13 fiscal year is 2.8%** and the School Board will not for the 2012-13 fiscal year increase the rate of its real estate tax, or any other tax for the support of public education, by an amount that exceeds the applicable index.
3. The School Board has to date and in the future will comply with the rules set forth in School Code § 687 for adoption of the school district proposed and final budgets for the next fiscal year.
4. The School Board understands that the school district will not be eligible to use Act 1 referendum exceptions for the next fiscal year.

DULY ADOPTED, By the Board of School Directors of this School District this 4th Day of January 2012.

READING SCHOOL DISTRICT
Berks County, Pennsylvania

By: _____
Yvonne Stroman, President

**VOTE ON FIN-3:
9 YEAS; 0 NAYS**

YEAS:
Mrs. Acosta
Mr. Denbowski
Mrs. McCree
Mrs. Torres-Figueroa
Ms. Stroman, President

Mr. Cooper
Mr. Heebner
Mr. Storch
Mr. Washington

**RESOLUTION FIN-3
WAS APPROVED.**

The board went into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

Human Resources – Educational Personnel

The Human Resources Committee presented Resolution EP-1 for consideration. The motion was made by Mr. Cooper, and this was seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa.

EP-1 BE IT RESOLVED, That Karen B. Gokay is appointed Chief Human Resources Officer for the Reading School District at an annual salary of \$125,000.00, effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the board shall approve, at a later time, the specific description of Mrs. Gokay’s responsibilities of this position.

**VOTE ON EP-1:
8 YEAS; 1 NAY**

YEAS:	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Denbowski
	Mr. Heebner	Mrs. McCree
	Mr. Storch	Mrs. Torres-Figueroa
	Mrs. Acosta	Ms. Stroman, President

NAYS: Mr. Washington

**RESOLUTION EP-1
WAS APPROVED.**

Mr. Storch made a motion to adjourn, and this was seconded by Mrs. Torres-Figueroa. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

These are the Official Proceedings of the Reading School District Board of Directors Special Meeting held on January 4, 2012.

Linda A. Greth
Secretary of the Board

Date